

for De la O and other Zapatista leaders to come into the city and aid him, but all refused to come.

"A band attacked a small town back of Tlalpam, on the outskirts of the federal district, yesterday, but fled, leaving twenty-four dead. We are not worrying about the Zapatistas helping Diaz. They will not do that."

Concentration of troops in the capital had not ceased, the President said, but the soldiers were being withdrawn from places where their presence was not actually needed. He thought he already had here all that he could use to advantage, but, in his opinion, it was just as well to have them here in case of necessity.

Regarding the suggested danger of hunger riots among the unemployed in the city, caused by a lack of occupation and the shutting off of earnings, President Madero showed orders which indicated that measures had been taken to ward off such a contingency.

"But the really important news of the day, I think," concluded Madero, "is President Taft's message. That has established two important things. One is that the United States will keep hands off unless conditions become much more grave in respect to foreigners than they are now, and the other is that no orders have been issued to land forces."

"The government is even more optimistic over the situation than yesterday. Deserters from Diaz tell us his garrison cannot hold out much longer. Already his men are growing dissatisfied and deserting. Almost every time they send out a force to spy or do sharpshooting they invariably desert."

When The Tribune correspondent left the National Palace President Madero had not prepared a reply to President Taft's message and doubted if he should do so, except for a word of thanks and appreciation.

The general belief had been among Americans, despite the lack of confirmation, that United States troops were coming direct to Mexico City, but no definite information had been obtained about them until Madero's proclamation was distributed.

The effects produced varied, but among the sober minded, who are in the majority and who are adverse to bringing troops here unless it is absolutely necessary, it is the opinion that President Taft is right and that it would be a grave error to invade Mexico, no matter with what pacific and disinterested intent, unless conditions in the capital affecting foreigners threaten to become much worse.

The day has been fairly quiet. In many parts of the city, especially in the business district, policemen appeared on their posts for the first time since the trouble began. Good order still prevails among the Mexicans of the lower classes. Mails are being sent out to the states nightly.

Two trainloads of refugees, principally women, who took advantage of yesterday's truce to get out, arrived safely at Vera Cruz this morning.

A peculiar feature of the situation is that many Englishmen are gaining information at the American Embassy in preference to the British Legation. They show an inclination to cast in their lot with the Americans rather than with the British, a large number of whom express themselves as highly dissatisfied with what they term the lethargic attitude of the British Minister, Francis W. Stronge.

If the government decides to abandon the long range cannon-ading of the Citadel and sticks to it, it will do much toward bracing up the nerves of foreigners, which have been sorely tried by the artillery fire, which has been too close for the nerves of the average non-combatant.

Foreigners in the suburbs, as well as from the centre of the city, have been playing golf at the Country Club almost daily. A hundred or more were there to-day.

The panic is about over, but any untoward circumstance is likely to start it going again.

FIGHTING ALL DAY; NO MATERIAL ADVANTAGE

(By The Associated Press.)
Mexico City, Feb. 17.—President Madero received to-day the reply of President Taft to his telegram protesting against possible intervention, in which President Taft assured him that the reports of the intention of the United States government to land forces in Mexico were inaccurate.

"I never expected anything less than this," commented President Madero on President Taft's message. "I regard it as satisfactory and friendly."

Fighting continued throughout the day, but the federal guns were quite as ineffective as ever in dislodging the rebels from their entrenched and fortified positions. The federalists did not show the same aggressiveness which characterized their action in the early days of the battle. This is believed to be due to the fact that they realize that for the present the government forces are not of sufficient strength to defeat the rebels.

General Huerta announced, however, that he expected soon to begin an encircling movement in which bombs would be used at short range.

A sustained attack by the federalists against the Young Men's Christian Association building this afternoon was repulsed by the rebels.

Big Guns in Play.
Fighting throughout the morning was very heavy. The big calibre guns possessed by the rebels in the arsenal were almost constantly in use, and the federal artillery brought another big siege gun into action, but did not succeed in silencing the rebel fire.

The engagement was severe until almost noon, but the firing then dwindled and developed into an exchange of volleys of rifle bullets. The rebels tried to pick off the federal artillerymen as they were serving the guns.

About noon the rebel gunners at the Arsenal poured a shower of shrapnel across the city toward the National Palace, but did not succeed in doing much damage.

The United States Embassy and the district surrounding it, in which there are many American residents, was not touched by any projectiles after the removal of the federal battery, which had heretofore drawn the fire of the rebel gunners at the Arsenal.

Blanquet Loyal to Madero.
General Blanquet is loyal to the government, and will be placed in command of the reserves at the National Palace.

Both on Sunday and to-day Madero appeared sanguine of the ultimate success of the federal army. He declared that the outlook was optimistic and that he had been offered support of all kinds. In his opinion Zapata, the guerrilla leader, is not in favor of Diaz in the present movement.

Nearly all the non-combatants have moved out of the real danger zone. Bread and cornmeal are abundant in the capital and are being distributed among the poor.

SAYS MADERO WILL WIN
His Private Secretary Declares People Are with Him.

Washington, Feb. 17.—"We are certain to control the situation within a short time; President Madero is absolutely determined and the people are with him," read a private dispatch to a Washington friend to-night from Juan Sanchez Azcona, private secretary to Madero.

MAY ARREST DE LA BARRA
Ex-Provisional President Suspected of Rebel Complicity.

Mexico City, Feb. 17.—It is reported that Francisco de la Barra, ex-Provisional President, will be arrested at the first opportunity for alleged complicity in the rebellion.

DIAZ VICTORY RUMORED
El Paso Hears He Has Taken National Palace.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 17.—Rebel forces began storming the palace early this afternoon with a 12-inch cannon, said a private telegram received here to-day from Mexico City.

An unconfirmed report, said to have been transmitted over the wires below Juarez, reported that Diaz occupied the palace at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Censorship continues to-night, however, on the Mexico City end of all wires below this point.

Brownsville, Tex., Feb. 17.—Without serious resistance, Matamoros, the Mexican town across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, passed into the hands of Mexican rebels at 5 o'clock this morning. This is the second Texas border town to be occupied by insurgents since the Diaz revolt, the other being Nuevo Laredo.

Matamoros was taken by soldiers of the garrison, who declared officials for Diaz. The revolutionists announced that the ferry and bridges from the American side would be destroyed, "to avoid any pillaging or disturbance" from lawless elements on the American side of the river.

CONNECTICUT TO LEAVE NAVY YARD IN HURRY
Goals and Provisions in Record Time and Steams South to Report for "Practice."

The battleship Connecticut will sail from the Brooklyn Navy Yard at 1 o'clock this morning with Rear Admiral Winslow, of the North Atlantic Squadron, on board. Ostensibly she is off for battle practice at Guantanamo, but the fact that Americans have been in peril in Mexico makes her departure significant.

The suspicions of many of the men were considerably heightened by the speed with which the battleship was taken out of drydock yesterday morning and coaled and provisioned. Eight hours later, in contrast to the usual conditions when a ship is merely leaving for practice work, she was ready to sail.

Rear Admiral Winslow came down from Newport last night and established his headquarters at the Connecticut, which was manned with a full complement. She has been in drydock for several weeks receiving her annual spring cleaning and overhauling.

MARINES LEAVE NAVY YARD
Force Ordered Out for Possible Service in Mexico.

In compliance with orders received at the New York Navy Yard at 1 o'clock yesterday morning, 200 marines and 1 the New York Navy Yard at 1 o'clock morning for the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

The men will form part of a regiment which is being prepared for possible service in Mexico. It could not be learned at the yard in Brooklyn what later disposition would be made of the marines.

The withdrawal of this force from the New York Navy Yard will leave it almost deserted. Between forty and fifty men now in the hospital, on furlough, and in the guardhouse, some of whom are near the end of their terms of enlistment, will be left to look after the yard. This will make an increased force of watchmen necessary. Most of the men who are going to Philadelphia have had experience in the expeditions to Nicaragua, Santo Domingo and Cuba.

CUBA FEARS UPRISING
Anti-American Feeling in Mexico a Cause of Unrest.

Havana, Feb. 17.—According to the Cuban newspapers, the palace guard has been doubled in anticipation of the forthcoming decision of the Superior Court, which, it is believed, will uphold the election of General Juan Mario Menocal to the Presidency.

An additional reason for this precaution is Cuban unrest over the anti-American spirit displayed in parts of Mexico.

DECRIES INTERVENTION
No Greater Disaster Could Befall, Says Mexican Agent.

Vigorous protest was made against intervention in Mexico yesterday by Heriberto Barron, fiscal agent here of the southern republic. Mr. Barron, who has an office in this city, said it was obvious that concerted efforts were being made to inflame the Mexican populace by implanting in their minds the idea that the United States would send troops over the border.

In a statement issued yesterday Mr. Barron said:

No greater disaster could befall the two nations than such an invasion, and any course calculated to create hatred against Americans is not merely unpatriotic, but infamous and treasonable to Mexico, and as a patriotic Mexican I desire to protest with all the vigor of my being against such infamy.

From personal knowledge gathered from intimate contact with the people of the United States and a study of the progress of events as recorded in the American press, I know that an invasion of Mexico by the United States is unpopular in the extreme and will not be possible unless forced through intolerable outrages upon American citizens resident in Mexico because of their nationality.

And I urge my countrymen by all they hold sacred to ignore the agitation of those false patriots who are endangering the honor and independence of Mexico by their false and exaggerated utterances.

JIMENEZ HEARS FAMILY IS SAFE.
Alfonso L. Jimenez, vice-consul of the Mexican consulate, received a message yesterday at No. 32 Broadway from F. G. Tuckabury, general agent in Mexico City for the Pennsylvania Steel Company. It informed the vice-consul that his family in Toluca was safe and well. Señor Jimenez said he addressed his telegram of inquiry to Mr. Tuckabury at the Mutual Life Insurance Company's building, and the prompt reply led him to believe that the building was not as badly damaged as was reported.

AMERICAN MARINES HURRIED TO CUBA
Two Thousand Men Ordered to Mobilize at Once at Guantanamo, Within Easy Reach of Mexico.

MOVEMENT ALREADY BEGUN
Administration Annoyed and Hampered by the Circulation of Reports of Pending Armed Intervention.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Feb. 17.—Indicating the determination of President Taft to be prepared to act decisively in dealing with the Mexican situation, orders were issued to-night for the mobilization of 2,000 marines at Guantanamo, Cuba, where they will easily be available to reinforce the landing force of about 4,000 officers, marines and bluejackets now at Vera Cruz and Tampico.

The army transports McClelland, Sumner and Kilpatrick have been ordered to proceed to Galveston to be prepared to carry troops to Mexico if conditions demand it. As exclusively told in The Tribune, any military invasion will be from Galveston, instead of from some more northern port.

Orders have been issued to officers on the vessels of the reserve fleet to hold their ships in readiness, so far as practicable, to put to sea, with a view to going to Guantanamo, Galveston or Mexican ports, as may prove necessary. No other orders concerning the reserves have been issued. The commanders of the reserve ships will complete their complement of men in so far as jacks are available.

The marines will be sent from Norfolk and Philadelphia on the navy transport Prairie and the army transport Meade, respectively. The Meade left Norfolk for Philadelphia to-night and will probably be able to start for Guantanamo on Wednesday, carrying about 1,200 marines in command of Colonel George Barnett, commanding the marine barracks at Philadelphia. The other 800 marines, in command of Colonel Joseph H. Pendleton, will leave Norfolk the latter part of the week.

These marines will be stationed at Guantanamo in connection with the "precautionary fleet" under the command in chief, Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger. They will be mustered from Boston, New York, Washington, Portsmouth, Charleston and Norfolk.

Official reports from Mexico City indicate that Felix Diaz apparently has the upper hand in the situation. Ambassador Wilson advised that 400 federal troops from General Anquet's forces deserted to the rebel cause and Consul Canada, at Vera Cruz, reported that the refugees who had flocked there declared Diaz had ample provisions and ammunition, while the federalists were short of both. Other messages hinted at the increasing strength of the rebels.

Administration Growing Impatient.
President Taft's reply to President Madero's communication pleading that this government do not intervene makes it plain that the administration is growing impatient over the delay in the restoration of peace, but those close to Mr. Taft assert that it is his fervent hope that the United States will not be compelled to resort to drastic measures. Officials were notified over the breaking of the armistice, thus hampering the relief of Americans and other imperilled foreigners, but they are loath to assign the responsibility for it.

The first intimation that Ambassador Wilson had of the intention of the combatants to resume the battle was when Diaz informed him that the federalists, by taking new positions, establishing cannons on certain buildings and placing seven hundred pounds of dynamite in the sewers approaching the Citadel were violating the armistice, and that their activities would not be tolerated. Mr. Wilson says that persons were sent out to investigate Diaz's statements and found them to be true. Subsequently a letter from General Huerta, the federal commander, informed Mr. Wilson that the armistice must be terminated on account of its alleged violation by the revolutionists.

Annoyed by Erroneous Reports.
Officials are much annoyed over the circulation of erroneous reports about the probability of American intervention, declaring that much anti-American feeling has been engendered. One demonstration against Americans occurred at Manzanillo, on the west coast, and it was deemed wise to send the Colorado there from Mazatlan.

For some time the marines at Eastern stations—principally at the base in Philadelphia—have been held in readiness for dispatch to any point where concentration might be deemed desirable. Fully 3,500 enlisted men of the marine corps, with their full equipment of armament, clothing and rations, have been prepared for a movement. The 2,000 men destined for Guantanamo will be placed in camp there and regularly drilled, with training on the target ranges. There are unusual facilities at Guantanamo for practising marksmanship and the special military instruction which will put the command in good fighting trim.

With this mobilization of marines it will not take long to reach a Mexican port and land the men ready for any emergency on shore and prepared for a protracted tour of duty in Mexico City, if they are needed to protect American interests.

Arrangements have been made by the Navy Department to transfer the marines from Guantanamo to Mexico, if the situation requires it, with the least possible delay. It will take about two days to make the transfer with two ships sailing at a speed of fifteen knots.

The withdrawal of so many marines from their posts here means that the Marine Corps probably will be underrepresented in the inaugural parade. It had been planned to have about 1,000 marines in the long line on that occasion.

At the various Atlantic Coast barracks there are 3,830 marines, the number at the places to be drawn on in the present movement being: Norfolk, 785; Philadelphia, 700; New York, 573; Portsmouth, N. H., 364; Washington, 356; Boston, 347, and Charleston, 148. In addition, there are with the Atlantic fleet 1,402 marines.

Orders to the Charlestown Navy Yard were to send 150 marines, but this evening the Commandant there was instructed to send every available marine in the vicinity. Detachments of men were already on the way from Boston early this evening. Others left Charleston, S. C., for Norfolk this afternoon on the transport the Prairie, prepared for "foreign shore tropical service."

Madero Complicates the Problem.
The problem of safeguarding the lives and property of Americans in Mexico without actually sending a military force to the country has been greatly complicated by the act of the Madero government, possibly without the actual direction of President Madero, in sending broadcast through Mexico news that armed intervention by the United States was about to occur, in the hope of inducing malcontents to drop their temporary quarrel with the government and respond to the patriotic call to repel foreign invasion.

It was for this reason that the State Department was obliged late in the day to cable and telegraph directly to all of the American consular officers who could be reached an unequivocal denial of any intention by the United States to send troops into Mexico or of any change in policy by this government. It was felt that the safety of Americans scattered throughout Mexico was jeopardized by these false reports.

While President Taft's message to President Madero referred to the reports that orders had been given to land forces in Mexico as "inaccurate," it was noticeable that no pledge was held out as to the future, nor was there any engagement that the ordinary preparatory measures in progress would be discontinued.

In addition to ordering marines to Guantanamo word has been passed quietly to military commanders of interior posts to make ready for eventualities. It was insisted, however, that this was only one of the most ordinary and proper measures of precaution, taken on the merest hint of trouble and often without probability of such.

The fact is, as frankly stated by a Cabinet officer, it is extremely desirable to prevent the spread of the idea in Mexico that the administration is contemplating the dispatch of an army of invasion to that country. Should such gain currency and find credence it would have the effect of precipitating the very trouble which it is desired to avoid and of endangering every American life in Mexico.

Hence, though determined to refrain from intervention except as the very last resort, the administration is in a position where the smallest and most routine measures for the preparation of its military and naval force for that last contingency must necessarily be clothed with official secrecy, even after news reports from various points where soldiers and marines are quartered clearly indicate that they are being prepared for service.

Hopes to Relieve Successor.
President Taft is plainly worried by the fact that, although he has only fifteen more days to serve in the White House, the situation in Mexico shows little signs of becoming less troublesome. The President has no desire to leave for Mr. Wilson the settlement of this country's relations with Mexico, but he is decidedly opposed to taking any measures himself unless extreme provocation and wholesale murder of Americans drive him to it.

The President told friends to-day that he realized what a difficult thing it would be for a new administration to gather up the reins of government and understand the conditions in the southern republic in a few weeks or a few months. He believes it would take at least six months for Mr. Wilson and his Cabinet to grasp details of diplomatic negotiations, of troop and battle-movement, and of international niceties that he and his Cabinet have acquired in two years' close study of a condition that never has ceased to confront them.

Mr. Taft has informed his advisers that he will be President until Mr. Wilson takes the oath of office, and that if intervention should be demanded by Congress on his last day in office he would not hesitate to concur. But he hopes that he will not have to act and then move into the background, leaving a new President and inexperienced administration to struggle with the real problem.

Night sessions of the Cabinet to consider late developments from Mexico probably will not be held in the future. Several members of the Cabinet suggested to-day that these meetings might be misunderstood and their significance magnified. The Cabinet officers felt that frequent reports of these late meetings, which apparently brought little tangible action, might lead to suspicion that the "lid" had been clamped down, that the public was being misled and that back of them many secret orders were being issued. The President agreed with his advisers and practically decided to hold no more such conferences.

WILSON WATCHES MEXICO
Silent, but Prepares to Relieve Taft of the Problem.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 17.—President-elect Wilson displayed keen interest to-day in the developments in Mexico. He was kept informed through press dispatches. Mr. Wilson feels that he ought to make no comment on the situation at present and to refrain from injecting more elements into the dilemma.

He is watching it closely, however, with the idea of being prepared immediately for any difficulties that may arise after he takes office.

TAFT WARNS MADERO PEACE MUST NOT LONG BE DELAYED

Washington, Feb. 17.—President Taft's reply to President Madero's appeal to withhold American intervention in Mexico, sent by telegraph, was made public by Secretary Knox to-day. It is as follows:

"From your excellency's telegram, which reached me the 14th, it appears that your excellency was somewhat misinformed as to the policy of the United States toward Mexico, which has been uniform for two years, or as to the naval or other measures thus far taken, which are measures of natural precaution. The ambassador telegraphed that when you were good enough to show him your telegram to me he pointed out this fact. Your excellency must, therefore, be aware that the reports which appear to have reached you that orders have already been given to land forces were inaccurate. The ambassador, who is fully informed, is nevertheless again instructed to afford you any desirable information."

"Fresh assurances of friendship to Mexico are unnecessary after two years of proof of patience and good will. In view of the special friendship and relations between the two countries I cannot too strongly impress upon you, excellency, the vital importance of the early establishment of that real peace and order which this government has so long hoped to see, both because American citizens and their property must be protected and respected and also because this nation sympathizes deeply with the afflictions of the Mexican people."

"In reciprocating the anxiety shown by your excellency's message I feel it my duty to add sincerely and without reserve that the course of events during the past two years culminating in the present most dangerous situation, creates in this country extreme pessimism and the conviction that the present paramount duty is the prompt relief of the situation."

"WILLIAM H. TAFT."

STREET CLEANERS BURN BODIES IN MEXICO CITY

Mexico City (by courier to Vera Cruz), Feb. 17.—An accurate statement of the number of dead and wounded in the eight days' fighting in the Mexican capital is impossible. Government army officers admit 350 killed and 400 seriously wounded on the federal side. The Diaz adherents acknowledge losses of 80 killed and 100 wounded.

The ambulances of the Red Cross Society have ceased trying to remove the dead and are devoting their entire attention to the wounded. The dead are being gathered by the city's street cleaning department wagons and burned.

From various sources it is estimated that owing to the promiscuous firing of cannon there has been a considerable loss of life among non-combatants.

Immense water mains, which were lying in the streets ready for installation, were said to have been used as a tunnel by the government soldiers to approach the enemy's lines before fighting was resumed after the armistice.

General Mondragon said that peace was earnestly desired by Felix Diaz, but only on condition that Madero, Jose Pino Suarez, the Vice-President, and the entire Madero Cabinet relinquished their posts.

General Rafael Davila, who was in command of the arsenal when it fell into the hands of Diaz a week ago, and Major Lopez Figueroa, chief of police of the capital, who was taken prisoner later, are still held by Diaz. It was reported that both had been executed.

Vera Cruz, Feb. 17.—Three American battleships, the Georgia, the Vermont and the Nebraska, are now here. They were visited to-day by the civic authorities.

Great alarm was occasioned last night, when the military and police officials mistook thirty laborers from an electric plant for disguised marines.

Two hundred American refugees have reached Vera Cruz, and many others are on the way. The American Consul, W. W. Canada, has organized a committee and collected funds and supplies for their maintenance.

The federal garrison has been increased to 1,600.

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